

politics and the formation of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), he became the capital city's first popularly elected Mayor in 1994. And in 2000, his election as President of Taiwan marked the first peaceful, democratic transfer of power in the history of either Taiwan or China.

After her release from prison, Ms. Lu was elected to Taiwan's legislature and later, Magistrate of Taoyuan County—the equivalent of a Governor here in the United States. In 2000, she was elected as Vice-President on the DPP ticket with President Chen.

In the span of two decades, Mr. Chen and Ms. Lu had gone from political prisoners to political leaders. Ms. Lu's response to a TIME Magazine reporter's question shortly before she and Mr. Chen were inaugurated in 2000 perhaps summed up this amazing transformation best:

The reporter asked, "Fifteen years ago you were sitting in a jail cell as a political prisoner. When you take the oath of office, what thoughts will be going through your head?"

She responded, "What I'm proud of is that the same party, the KMT, that suppressed me 20 years ago will be transferring power to me, peacefully."

President Chen and Vice-President Lu spearheaded efforts to amend Taiwan's antiquated constitution to modernize Taiwan's fledgling democracy. They also conducted Taiwan's first ever citizens referendum—a milestone for democracy not just in Taiwan, but in all of Asia. Taiwan's voters rewarded the two for their diligence and commitment by re-electing them in 2004.

Under their leadership, Taiwan has deepened its democratic roots, and has become an even brighter beacon of democracy than when they first took office eight years ago. I hope that very soon, Madam Speaker, the people on the Chinese mainland will see that light, and emulate in that country what the Taiwanese have accomplished in their own.

Later this month, Mr. Ma Ying Jeou and Mr. Vincent Siew will be sworn in as Taiwan's new President and Vice President—signifying yet another peaceful transfer of power from one party to another in Taiwan.

So Madam Speaker, I rise to once again congratulate the people of Taiwan, and to recognize President Chen and Vice-President Lu for their contributions to democracy and human rights. I wish them both the best of luck as they leave office.

HONORING ALESIA HAMILTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize, Ms. Alesia Hamilton, an

exemplary individual and first grade teacher at Edison Elementary in St. Joseph, Missouri.

In 2004, Ms. Hamilton, in accordance with her character of compassion and service, invited Mr. Alferd Williams, 70, into her class of 25 students in order that he may finally learn to read. Her generous nature and commitment to the task of working with Mr. Williams demonstrates her willingness to go above and beyond what is required as a public school teacher.

In accordance with my Resolution to recognize the roles and contributions of America's teachers through National Teacher Appreciation Week, I would like to take a moment to individually recognize Ms. Hamilton as an educator selflessly committed to the development of our nation's students.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alesia Hamilton for her service to America's students and for her efforts put forth in working with Mr. Williams. It is an honor to serve both of these individuals in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF POLISH
CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, as they celebrate Polish Constitution Day—a day where the Polish Community shares their rich culture with the Greater Cleveland Community.

The first written European constitution, the Governmental Statute of Poland, was instated on May 3, 1971. Poland's Constitution was the result of nearly five centuries of struggle and perseverance by the people of Poland to diminish the power of the King and to create facets and institutions of government vital to the foundation of a constitutional government. Formed in 1949, the Polish American Congress is a national umbrella organization representing over ten million Americans of Polish descent and origin, and serves as a unifying force for both Polish Americans and Polish citizens living in America. Cleveland's Polish American community is deeply rooted and prides itself on their commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy, hard work and fulfillment of the American dream.

The Polish American Congress strives to make Americans of Polish heritage more successful and involved U.S. citizens by encouraging them to assume the responsibilities of leadership. Since its foundation over sixty years ago, the group has created programs to successfully integrate people of Polish decent

in the U.S. and enrich Cleveland's social fabric. These programs include the Displaced Persons Program, which allowed almost 150,000 Polish immigrants to enter the U.S. after World War Two. The group also won American veterans benefits for Polish Veterans of both World War One and World War Two.

The Polish American Congress has played a crucial role in the Polish Community, and in its many years of support and service has been an invaluable contribution to the City of Cleveland and this nation. This year, the Greater Cleveland Community can celebrate Poland's rich history and culture by joining Cleveland's Polish community in attending events such as the Polonia Ball, the Grand Parade and the Photographic Exhibition.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of the leaders and members of the Polish American Congress, as they celebrate Polish Constitution Day and as they continue to promote and share their heritage, history and culture with the Greater Cleveland community.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, I join with citizens around the world to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. On this day, we honor the European Jews who retained their human dignity in the midst of extreme suffering, and in many cases, offered passive resistance.

Some Jews opposed the Third Reich through participation in underground forces. In Warsaw, many banded together to fight the Nazis in the ghettos. Others used what meager means they had to preserve their culture. The U.S. Holocaust Museum, located just a few blocks from here, displays artwork and poetry created by Jews imprisoned in concentration camps—evidences of the prisoners' courage and resilience.

The genocide remains one of the darkest stains on the history of humanity and a testament to the strength of the Jewish people. As both a Member of Congress and a private citizen possessing a strong faith, I vow to always remember and respect those who suffered such a tragic fate.